NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

September 6, 1996

Thanks!

Special Events would like to thank everyone for your ongoing and overwhelming support -- especially during the filming of *Relic* and *Chain Reaction*; Princess Diana's visit; the Democratic Convention and all the other events in between. Our ability to meet the high expectations of our clients is due to the wonderful efforts of each and every one of you!

-- Cynthia Gulley, Carol Konieczny, and Laurie Sanders

Please -- Facilities Planning and Operations would appreciate it if all requests needed for the **September 19 McCarter event** are submitted ASAP -- for work, electrical cords, extra lighting, etc. Questions? Call **Andy Pavasars** (x380).

Also -- All Departments should submit their **"Critical Equipment Surveys"** to the FP&O office before September 13. Remember, as previously reported in the *Natural News,* there will be a planned power outage for maintenance purposes in the near future. Don't be caught unprepared! If you need another copy of the survey, contact **Andy** (x380).

Sandy Boyd will continue to receive mail in the President's Office through September, but has moved to Peter Crane's old office. His phone number will change later.

CENTER FOR CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING AND CHANGE

NOON BALLOON RESUMES

The Center for Cultural Understanding and Change and the Department of Anthropology presents Mac Chapin, Director, Center for the Support of Native Lands, Winner of the Pew Scholars Award for Biodiversity Conservation in the inaugural **Noon Balloon, Tuesday, September 10, 1996**. His talk is titled "Participatory Mapping in Indigenous Communities: A Strategy for the Protection of Land and Natural Resources." On the same day, **at 7:00pm in Lecture Hall I,** Chapin will present a public lecture. His talk will be titled "Indigenous Peoples, Land and Natural Resources in Central America." During the last forty years, the pace of environmental destruction in Central America has accelerated to the point where the very existence of the tropical forest and the indigenous people living in them is threatened. To counteract these rapid changes, a number of indigenous groups in the region have taken steps to protect their homelands and their natural resources. Two groups are discussed in this context: the Tawahka of the Mosquitia of Honduras and the Kuna of the San Blas region of Panama. Slides will be shown. We invite you to participate in these important discussions of environmental issues.

CCUC NEWS continued from page 1

CCUC Director **Alaka Wali** served on the Advisory Panel for the Chicago Council on Urban Affairs Publication "One City: The Drug Crisis", Summer 1996 issue. The journal presents diverse perspectives about the drug crisis in our cities, and includes an article by Dwight Conquergood, anthropologist at Northwestern University. Copies of "One City" are available from The Council. Write to: Chicago Council on Urban Affairs, 11 S. La Salle, Suite 2070, Chicago, IL 60605.

CCUC Project Administrator **Jaci Carter** attended a Diversity Awareness Workshop conducted by A World of Difference Institute, a program of the Anti-Defamation League. The day long session helped participants to explore how stereotypes and bigotry manifest themselves in the workplace.

PUBLIC SERVICES JULY EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Tina Augustus, Security

JULY NOMINEES: Tina Augustus, Derek McGlorthan, Olga Pack, and Dave Wilkins, Security; Kevin Cunningham, Valerie Gardner, Denise Hatter-Easley, and Jeanette Watson, Visitor Services.

CONGRATULATIONS to the nominees and Employee of the Month for July. Thanks for going the extra mile!

EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

June, 1996

Eve Kurek	Accounting	5 years
Rodolfo Amarillas	Housekeeping	10 years

July, 1996

Susan Hamnik	Botany	5 years
Qiuxin Wu	Botany	5 years
Bruce Patterson	Zoology	15 years
Kenneth Grabowski	Library	20 years
Harry Nelson	Zoology	45 years

August, 1996

Mark Kennedy	Education	5 years
Wang-Fai Wong	Education	5 years
James Atkinson	Housekeeping	10 years
Meseret Gelaw	Budget	10 years
Nadine Kendra	Museum Affairs	10 years

Editor's note: *The August 1996 issue of* ***Safety + Health*** *magazine carries an interview with* ***Richard Koontz*** *as "an individual who has made significant contributions to the safety, health or environmental field." As the interview gives a good overview of safety issues at The Field, we will print excerpts in the* ***Natural News*** *over the next several weeks.*

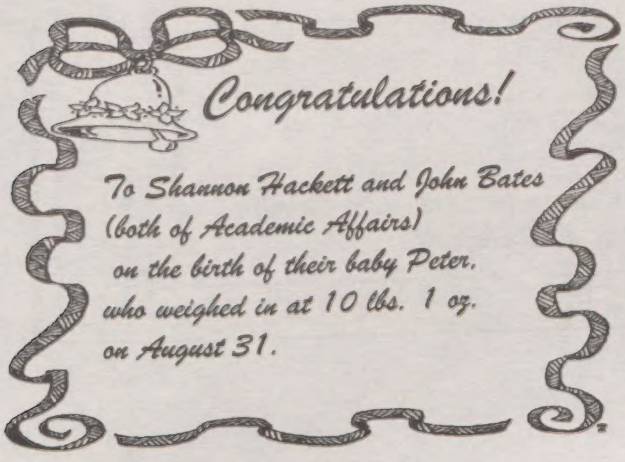
SAFETY CORNER

How do safety and health issues for a museum differ from those in general industry?
In some ways they're similar. In others, they're very different. The Field's physical plant includes a variety of exhibition halls, outdoor lots, research labs and thousands of potentially hazardous materials. From a risk perspective, the closest parallel would be that of a university or maybe a government science agency.

Beyond the basic facilities issues, there are many unusual activities that take place here. Biological materials such as fish specimens arrive packed in hazardous chemicals such as formalin. Geological specimens brought back from research expeditions often require acid baths to remove fossils from the surrounding rock matrix. We have two wood shops. And our creative exhibits staff is always bringing in new display materials. Ergonomics concerns range from back injuries due to lifting to neck and shoulder strains that result when paleontologists hunch over microscopes. We also have a DNA research lab that uses radioactive materials.

All of these issues have parallels in industry, but ours tend to be unique variations. As a scientific research facility with many brilliant and extremely independent thinkers, a big part of my job is reminding people to ask themselves, "What are the risks associated with this particular process?" and, "Do I have the right personal protective equipment for the job?"... My office is the central repository for our material safety data sheets, injury and illness reports, and safety training records.

To supplement our safety program, we use outside resources for emergency-response and blood-borne pathogens training. We also work with a museum safety consultant. Once a year, our workers-compensation carrier conducts a top-to-bottom inspection.


Congratulations!
To Shannon Hackett and John Bates
(both of Academic Affairs)
on the birth of their baby Peter,
who weighed in at 10 lbs. 1 oz.
on August 31.

The *Natural News* is edited by **Carolyn Klyce** in the President's Office. The primary purpose of this newsletter is to serve as an instrument for official, Museum-wide communications. As space permits, unofficial communications may be printed, which may be submitted by any staff member. Examples of appropriate unofficial communications are: birth and death announcements, notice of outside activities of staff members which may be of interest to the general staff (such as a gallery show featuring the work of astaff member), notice of sale of personal items. The deadline for all submissions -- in WordPerfect on floppy disk or via email to klyce@fmppr.fmnh.org -- is Tuesday at noon. Printed on recycled paper.

Computer Training Survey Results

Thank you to all who participated in this survey in April. Following are the results:

Number of respondents: **62**
Number who would use an in-house terminal for self-training purposes: **45**
Most commonly requested programs for training:

Spreadsheets:	**Lotus Windows, Excel**
Word Processing:	**Word Perfect Windows, Microsoft Word**
Other:	**Internet, E-mail**

People also expressed interest in training in twenty other programs as well. We are researching external training companies that could assist us in these areas.

AND...

Thanks to your feedback, we are pleased to announce the first

Internet and E-mail "Train the Trainer" Session

WHAT: Introduction to Internet and E-mail; how to use them; tips on working smarter; highlights from The Field Museum's Web page

WHEN: Late October or early November, 1996 (date to be determined)

WHO: Selected staff members who are willing to train others. Speak to your supervisor if you are interested in representing your department.

Conducted by *New Horizons Computer Learning Center*
Sponsored by the *Personnel Department*